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House of Representatives

The House met at 11:30 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord our God, Your reluctant profit Jonah called out to You from the depths. Hear our prayer today for the Members and the staffs who assist them here in the House of Representatives. Unlike Jonah, we will not run away from Your presence nor avoid the task You set before us.

Make us steadfast in faith that this generation may seek the wisdom which reveals the sign of Jonah. May the new life still hidden in winter's wrap come forth. May the promise of deeper relationships emerge from confessed limitations, apologies, and efforts of reconciliation. May death to selfishness give rise to the ability to love.

With Jonah we are always surprised to find You, as "a loving and merciful God, always patient, always kind, and always ready to change Your mind and not punish."

This we believe now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCOLLUM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2057. An act to require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the United States Armed Forces for certain transportation expenses incurred by the members in connection with leave under the Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave Program before the program was expanded to include domestic travel.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

CALLING FOR CHANGES IN EUROPEAN UNION'S AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, it is high time for the European Union to face the reality that it must eliminate its destructive agricultural export subsidies. This Member commends U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick for emphasizing this message during his recent visit to Geneva. As Ambassador Zoellick correctly noted, such action is one of the keys to reaching an international ag trade agreement.

The EU's outrageous use of export subsidies hurts U.S. farmers, distorts international trade, and harms developing countries. If the EU would end its export subsidies, this Member is confident that the U.S. would be more than willing to eliminate its much smaller export subsidies. It should be noted that the American export subsidies are only used occasionally as a shot across the bow of the EU for the third country export markets.

This Member believes the American agriculture community is willing to make certain changes in the current domestic subsidy program as well, as long as it is accompanied by meaningful subsidy reforms in the EU as well as in Japan and Korea.

Mr. Speaker, real change in the European Union's agriculture export subsidy programs, and especially its elimination of their ag export subsidies, would be of great benefit to farmers and consumers around the world.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to wish a very happy 150th birthday to the city I live in and represent, St. Paul, Minnesota. St. Paul is Minnesota's capital city, and it is 2 years more "mature" than Minneapolis, our twin sister city.

Originally called Pig's Eye by Mississippi River travelers who would stop for a belt of whiskey, St. Paul was incorporated on March 4, 1854. For 150 years St. Paul's special character has been shaped by the people and cultures of the world. For our first 100 years, Native Americans, Europeans, African Americans settled and built St. Paul. More recently, new immigrants from Asia, Latin America, and Africa continue to transform and strengthen St. Paul.

It is no secret to St. Paul residents. We live in a great city.

Happy birthday to St. Paul. It is 150 years old, and we are just getting started.

FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS: CONCURRENT RECEIPT

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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